

Docket No.: 60,130-1786
Serial No.: 10/619,231**REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-8, 11 and 18-20 as obvious over Rosenberg (U.S. 6,641,646). The Examiner has responded to Applicant's previous arguments by pointing out that the claim term "fluid" in claim 1 is broad enough to cover air. This is correct; however, blasting pulses of air into the filter, which is the method disclosed by Rosenberg, would not be effective for cleaning a diesel particulate filter. Because the method disclosed in Rosenberg would not be effective for cleaning a diesel particulate filter, it would not be obvious to use such a method for this claimed purpose.

The method disclosed by Rosenberg is very different from the method disclosed and claimed in the present application. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, a fluid (such as a liquid) is flowed slowly and steadily through the filter while acoustic waves assist in dislodging the ash from the long passages and the thin filter walls. The fluid flowing through the filter carries the ash out of the filter. Using ultrasonic or acoustic waves is a significant difference from Rosenberg's use of air blasts. There is no suggestion or motivation for adding acoustic or ultrasonic waves to Rosenberg's design, as claimed in claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 20. Therefore, these claims are independently patentable.

Rosenberg also does not disclose the step of filtering the fluid after it flows out of the inlet of the filter to remove the ash from the fluid, as claimed in claims 6 and 11. Therefore, claims 6 and 11 are independently patentable.

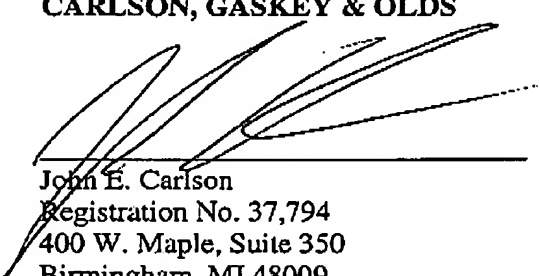
Docket No.: 60,130-1786
Serial No.: 10/619,231

Rosenberg also does not disclose filtering the fluid after it exits the diesel particulate filter and returning the filtered fluid to the filter as recited by claim 17. Therefore, claim 17 is also independently patentable.

Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS



John E. Carlson
Registration No. 37,794
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: Jan 13, 2005